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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/8/08

SPONSOR HVEC LAST UPDATED _____ HB 335/HVECS

SHORT TITLE Allow Student Appointments to Precinct Boards SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)
 Public Education Department (PED)
 Association of County Clerks (ACC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The House Voters and Elections Committee substitute to House Bill 335 amends Section 1-2-7 NMSA 1978, Precinct Boards, to allow county clerks to appoint no more than two students to serve on a precinct board under the direct supervision of the presiding judge. The county clerk shall compile a list of students who apply and are qualified. The list will serve as the second source from which the county clerk will appoint from, the list submitted by the major part county chairs will be the first source. The student must meet the same qualification as all other board member; have approval from the educational institution where the student is enrolled, unless the student has graduated from high school, obtained a GED or is enrolled in a post-secondary institution; be at least 16 years of age; be a citizen; have parent or legal guardian approval; attend a school of instruction in accordance with the provisions of Section 1-2-17 NMSA 1978; and be appointed to the board of the precinct in which the student's parent or legal guardian resides, unless the county clerk determines a shortage of precinct board members in certain precincts. Students appointed to a board will not be allowed to serve as the presiding judge; be involved in any decision affecting the legitimacy of a ballot; or operate or repair a voting machine.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to Public Education Department, this bill could connect students to the New Mexico Social Studies Standards, impacting their understanding of civics. It also relates to Service Learning, which teaches the skills of civil participation and develops an ethic of service and civic responsibility. Research shows, “Students learn more effectively within an interactive, hands-on context than within the traditional educational framework.” (Lieberman and Hoody, 1998).

References: New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards *Social Studies K-12* (2005) Retrieved January 17, 2008 from <http://www.mystandards.org/standards/browse/SS/SS-HI-01>

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Secretary of State explains that this bill will encourage young people to get involved in the election process earlier and will allow them to receive school credit for this involvement.

EO/mt